

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

HUNG LAM,  
Plaintiff,

v.

CITY OF SAN JOSE, et al.,  
Defendants.

Case No. [14-cv-00877-PSG](#)

**[PROPOSED] FINAL JURY  
INSTRUCTIONS ON DAMAGES**

United States District Court  
Northern District of California

**1. DUTY TO DELIBERATE**

When you begin your deliberations, you should elect one member of the jury as your presiding juror. That person will preside over the deliberations and speak for you here in court.

You will then discuss the case with your fellow jurors to reach agreement if you can do so. Your verdict must be unanimous.

Each of you must decide the case for yourself, but you should do so only after you have considered all of the evidence, discussed it fully with the other jurors, and listened to the views of your fellow jurors.

Do not hesitate to change your opinion if the discussion persuades you that you should. Do not come to a decision simply because other jurors think it is right.

It is important that you attempt to reach a unanimous verdict but, of course, only if each of you can do so after having made your own conscientious decision. Do not change an honest belief about the weight and effect of the evidence simply to reach a verdict.

## 2. COMMUNICATION WITH COURT

If it becomes necessary during your deliberations to communicate with me, you may send a note through the court security officer, signed by your presiding juror or by one or more members of the jury. No member of the jury should ever attempt to communicate with me except by a signed writing; I will communicate with any member of the jury on anything concerning the case only in writing, or here in open court. If you send out a question, I will consult with the parties before answering it, which may take some time. You may continue your deliberations while waiting for the answer to any question. Remember that you are not to tell anyone—including me—how the jury stands, numerically or otherwise, until after you have reached a unanimous verdict or have been discharged. Do not disclose any vote count in any note to the court.

**3. BURDEN OF PROOF—PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE**

When a party has the burden of proof on any claim by a preponderance of the evidence, it means you must be persuaded by the evidence that the claim is more probably true than not true.

You should base your decision on all of the evidence, regardless of which party presented it.

**4. IMPEACHMENT EVIDENCE—WITNESS**

The evidence that a witness testified differently on a prior occasion may be considered, along with all other evidence, in deciding whether or not to believe the witness and how much weight to give to the testimony of the witness and for no other purpose.

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**5. EXPERT OPINION**

Some witnesses, because of education or experience, were permitted to state opinions and the reasons for those opinions.

Opinion testimony should be judged just like any other testimony. You may accept it or reject it, and give it as much weight as you think it deserves, considering the witness's education and experience, the reason given for the opinion, and all the other evidence in the case.

**6. DEMONSTRATIVE EVIDENCE**

During the trial, materials have been shown to you to help explain testimony or other evidence in the case. Other materials have also been shown to you during the trial, but they have not been admitted into evidence. You will not be able to review them during your deliberations because they are not themselves evidence or proof of any facts. You may, however, consider the testimony given in connection with those materials.

**7. DAMAGES—PROOF**

It is the duty of the Court to instruct you about the measure of damages.

You must determine the plaintiff's damages. The plaintiff has the burden of proving damages by a preponderance of the evidence. Damages means the amount of money that will reasonably and fairly compensate the plaintiff for any injury that was caused by the defendant. You should consider the following:

1. The nature and extent of the injuries;
2. The disability, disfigurement and loss of enjoyment of life experienced and which with reasonable probability will be experienced in the future;
3. The mental or emotional pain and suffering experienced and which with reasonable probability will be experienced in the future;
4. The reasonable value of necessary medical care, treatment and services received to the present time;
5. The reasonable value of necessary medical care, treatment and services which with reasonable probability will be required in the future;
6. The reasonable value of necessary household help and services, other than medical expenses, required to the present time;
7. The reasonable value of necessary household help and services, other than medical expenses, which with reasonable probability will be required in the future.

It is for you to determine what damages, if any, have been proved.

Your award must be based upon evidence and not upon speculation, guesswork or conjecture.



**8. DAMAGES—MITIGATION**

The plaintiff has a duty to use reasonable efforts to mitigate damages. To mitigate means to avoid or reduce damages.

The defendant has the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence:

1. That the plaintiff failed to use reasonable efforts to mitigate damages; and
2. The amount by which damages would have been mitigated.

**9. DAMAGES ARISING IN THE FUTURE—DISCOUNT TO PRESENT CASH VALUE**

Any award for future economic damages must be for the present cash value of those damages.

Noneconomic damages such as pain and suffering, disability and disfigurement are not reduced to present cash value.

Present cash value means the sum of money needed now, which, when invested at a reasonable rate of return, will pay future damages at the times and in the amounts that you find the damages will be incurred.

The rate of return to be applied in determining present cash value should be the interest that can reasonably be expected from safe investments that can be made by a person of ordinary prudence, who has ordinary financial experience and skill. You should also consider decreases in the value of money which may be caused by future inflation.


**10. RETURN OF VERDICT**

A verdict form has been prepared for you. After you have reached unanimous agreement on a verdict, your presiding juror will fill in the form that has been given to you, sign and date it, and advise the court that you are ready to return to the courtroom.

United States District Court  
Northern District of California

**SO ORDERED.**

Dated: December 16, 2015



PAUL S. GREWAL  
United States Magistrate Judge